



Northwest Coordination Center

150 SW Harrison Street Suite 400
Portland, OR 97201
503-808-2720
<http://www.gacc.nifc.gov/nwcc>

September 14, 2017

Washington Army National Guard UH-60 Hoist Helicopter Ordering Procedures

Purpose

This letter identifies capabilities and establishes the interim protocols for ordering the activated Washington Army National Guard (WAARNG) firefighting and hoist equipped UH-60 for emergency extraction of injured interagency personnel from interagency lands and incidents in Washington State.

Capability and Limitations

- Daytime VFR only (**Night operations are not possible**)
- Extraction capable only (**Advanced medical care is not provided**)
- Helicopter equipped with hoist and 250 ft. lift cable
- Hoist payload limit is 600 lbs.

The WAARNG hoist extraction helicopter is actively involved in suppression activities and may need to return to the operations helibase to refuel and reconfigure for an emergency extraction mission. Although night operations are not possible, orders can be placed at night to facilitate an aircraft launch at the earliest possible time.

Ordering WAARNG UH-60 Hoist Helicopter for Emergency Extraction

- Refer to the [NWCC Emergency Medical Evacuation Extraction Map](#) for the current location and host dispatch office for the approved extraction helicopters, including the WAARNG hoist equipped UH-60 helicopter, which may be ordered for emergency extraction of incident personnel.
- The depicted helicopter location for the WAARNG hoist helicopter will have an associated table providing the helicopter tail number and the name and phone number of the hosting dispatch center.
- Ordering Units may order the hoist equipped WAARNG Helicopter by placing a call direct to the hosting dispatch center. The host dispatch center shall refer to their call-down list (provided by WADNR Helicopter Coordinator) to initiate the response.
- The hosting incident(s) may initiate the response through their internal processes and follow-up with a notification to the host dispatch center. **Ordering Units or Incidents must supply the necessary information to facilitate an emergency response.**



- At a minimum, include the following items, which are found on the standard aircraft dispatch card:
 - Incident Name
 - Initial patient assessment
 - Incident Air-to-Air frequency
 - Incident air-to-ground frequency
 - Incident geographic location and latitude/longitude
 - Incident Ground Contact
 - Other aircraft on the incident
 - Hazards if known
- **A request for hoist extraction will be processed by Central Washington Interagency Coordination Center (509-884-3473) or hosting IMT as a priority emergency response.**
- **The host dispatch center will contact NWCC (503-808-2720) whenever a hoist mission is launched and follow-up with a “commit” message to all NW Dispatch Centers.**
- **If hosting IMT utilizes hoist aircraft for a medical emergency the IMT will notify the hosting dispatch center to ensure proper notifications are made.**
- **NWCC will notify all NW Dispatch Centers and update the appropriate web products in a timely manner whenever there is a change with the WAARNG hoist status or location.**

Alternatives

If the WAARNG UH-60 Hoist Helicopter is not available, refer to the [Emergency Medical Evacuation Extraction Map](#) for other extraction helicopters. If Interagency approved extraction helicopters are not available, follow all incident or Unit Emergency Response Plans. Calling 911 will initiate the process to order commercial, municipal, or other DOD assets that may provide patient evacuation and subsequent care. You may reference the [Interagency Emergency Helicopter Evacuation Source List](#) for additional information on alternate extraction options and how to order.

Should you have any questions, please contact Dan Boyle, WADNR Helicopter Coordinator, 360-480-0490; Dave Glose, USFS AK/PNW, Helicopter Program Manager, 541-408-7276; or Ted Pierce, Deputy Center Manager, NWCC, 503-808-2722.